

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 10-21 as follows.

1. (Withdrawn) A method for breeding an azalea which breeds deciduous azalea with converting it into an evergreen property, in which a gene concerning evergreen is introduced into the deciduous azalea to breed an evergreen azalea.

2. (Withdrawn) The method for breeding evergreen azalea according to Claim 1, wherein said introduction of the gene is crossing utilizing a evergreen azalea as a flower parent or a seed parent.

3. (Withdrawn) The method for breeding an azalea according to Claim 1, wherein said deciduous azalea is *R. reticulatum*, *R. dilatatum* var. *satsumense*, or *Rhododendron weyrichii*, and said evergreen azalea is *R. eriocarpum*.

4. (Withdrawn) The method for breeding an azalea according to Claim 1, wherein said crossing is mutual crossing.

5. (Withdrawn) The method for breeding an azalea according to Claim 1, wherein *Rhododendron weyrichii*, which is deciduous azalea, and *R. dilatatum* var.

satsumense, which is deciduous azalea are crossed to introduce a gene concerning evergreen is introduced into the deciduous azalea.

6. (Withdrawn) A method for breeding an azalea which breeds non-heat resistant azalea with converting it into heat resistance, in which a gene concerning heat resistance is introduced into the non-heat resistant azalea to breed a heat resistant azalea.

7. (Withdrawn) The method for breeding an azalea according to Claim 6, wherein the introduction of said gene is conducted by crossing a heat resistant azalea as a pollen parent or a seed parent.

8. (Withdrawn) The method for breeding an azalea according to Claim 6, wherein said heat resistant azalea is *Rhododendron eriocarpum*, and said non-heat resistant azalea is Kurume Azalea or Kurume Azalea Hybrids.

9. (Withdrawn) The method for breeding an azalea according to Claim 6, wherein said non-heat resistant azalea is evergreen azalea or deciduous azalea, and said heat resistant azalea is deciduous azalea or evergreen azalea, and wherein an evergreen property is imparted to said azalea which is bred with introducing a gene concerning evergreen property into said deciduous azalea.

10. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:  
introducing a genotype from an azalea comprising an ever-flowering property into  
a deciduous, one season flowering azalea to breed an ever-flowering azalea.

~~for breeding an azalea which breeds one season flowering azalea with converting~~  
~~it into ever flowering property, in which a gene concerning ever flowering property is~~  
~~introduced into the one season flowering azalea to breed an ever flowering azalea.~~

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, ~~for breeding an azalea~~  
~~according to Claim 10,~~ wherein a the genotype gene ~~which can repeat the~~ ever-flowering  
property every year, ~~preferably being introduced into one season flowering azalea.~~

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, ~~for breeding an azalea~~  
~~according to Claim 10,~~ wherein the introducing comprises ~~said introduction of the gene is~~  
~~conducted by crossing cross~~ utilizing the ever-flowering azalea introducing the genotype  
as a pollen parent ~~or a seed parent.~~

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, ~~for breeding an azalea~~  
~~according to Claim 10,~~ wherein said ever-flowering azalea is a Rhododendron oldhamii,  
and wherein said one season flowering azalea is one of a Hirado azalea or Hirado Azalea  
Hybrids.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, for breeding an azalea according to ~~Claim 10, wherein said one season flowering is deciduous azalea or evergreen azalea, and wherein~~ said ever-flowering azalea is an evergreen azalea or deciduous azalea, and wherein the introducing further comprises imparting an evergreen property ~~is imparted to said azalea which is bred with introducing a gene concerning ever-flowering property into said one season flowering azalea.~~

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, for breeding an azalea according to ~~Claim 11, wherein said one season flowering is deciduous azalea or evergreen azalea, and wherein~~ said ever-flowering azalea is an evergreen azalea or deciduous azalea, and wherein the introducing further comprises imparting an evergreen property ~~is imparted to said azalea which is bred with introducing a gene concerning ever-flowering property into said one season flowering azalea.~~

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, for breeding an azalea according to ~~Claim 10, wherein said one season flowering~~ azalea is one of a non heat resistant azalea or a heat resistant azalea, and wherein said ever-flowering azalea is one of a heat resistant azalea or a non-heat resistant azalea, and wherein the introducing further comprises imparting a ~~an heat resistance is imparted to said azalea which is bred with introducing a gene concerning heat resistance property into said one season flowering azalea.~~

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, for breeding an azalea according to Claim 11, wherein said one season flowering azalea is one of a non heat resistant azalea or a heat resistant azalea, and wherein said ever-flowering azalea is one of a heat resistant azalea or a non-heat resistant azalea, and wherein the introducing further comprises imparting a heat resistance ~~is imparted to said azalea which is bred with introducing a gene concerning heat resistance property into said one season flowering azalea.~~

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, for breeding an azalea according to Claim 14, wherein said one season flowering azalea is one of a non heat resistant azalea or a heat resistant azalea, and wherein said ever-flowering azalea is one of a heat resistant azalea or a non-heat resistant azalea, and wherein the introducing further comprises imparting a heat resistance ~~is imparted to said azalea which is bred with introducing a gene concerning heat resistance property into said one season flowering azalea.~~

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, for breeding an azalea according to Claim 15, wherein said one season flowering azalea is one of a non heat resistant azalea or a heat resistant azalea, and wherein said ever-flowering azalea is one of a heat resistant azalea or a non-heat resistant azalea, and wherein the introducing further comprises imparting a heat resistance ~~is imparted to said azalea which is bred with~~

~~introducing a gene concerning heat resistance property into said one season flowering azalea.~~

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, for breeding an azalea ~~according to any one of Claims 1, 6, or 10,~~ wherein the selection of two different azaleas ~~for crossing~~ to cross breed is conducted by using a genotype  ~~$Pg/pg \cdot Cy/cy/Dp/dp$~~  which is an inheritance of main anthocyanidins, pelargonidin (Pgn), cyanidin (Cyn), and delphinidin (Dpn), concerning the exhibition of flower color.

21. (Currently Amended) An ~~new~~ azalea created by the method for breeding an azalea according to claim 10. ~~any one of Claims 1, 6, or 10.~~